

HERRING FISHING STARTS IN EARNEST.

The men of the little ships that kept the seas mine^o swept during the war are out in the North Sea trawling ~~herring~~ herring again. The ~~herring~~ fleets are over the fishing grounds and if the queues have not yet disappeared from the fish-mongers the situation is at least more hopeful. Seagulls, which found mines unappetising, are very happy to see things back on a peace-time basis. Apparently the herrings don't take the same view. The first catches were distinctly below the average. The cleverest fishermen can do very little if the fish won't co-operate. So far the herrings - except the unwary ones - don't seem to realise what's expected of them. However back to port the trawlers brought what catches they had - not heavy enough, ~~MM~~ incidentally - to demand the presence of the Scottish fishergirls, ~~we used to see in the herring season.~~ Three basketfuls make a cran. Several trawlers only caught twelve cran, instead of the forty they average on good days.

They have machines nowadays for gutting and slicing the fish ~~It~~ all very scientific, and not a single one escapes treatment. That's the first move in turning them into kippers.... In fact fifty go through it every minute. (SV carry stick) The fish are smoked in the same plant. They're left in the fumes of burning oak chips for four hours. The sooner there are plenty for sale the better everybody'll be pleased.

HERRING 2

Other herrings not intended for kippering, are frozen. First, they have to be washed. When they've lost all trace of the salt water they go a step further, by a fishy version of mechanical conveyor, to be sprayed with cold brine, which freezes them hard.

In the state of c B kept 4 " yr or ~ 7 still

~~In that state they can be kept in cold storage for a year or more and still eat like fresh herrings when thawed out and cooked. The temperature~~

eat like fresh herrings 5 yr thawed out

~~In the cold~~ store ^{it's} ten below zero. The days when a glut of fish meant such ~~unusually~~ low prices that they were thrown back in the sea are over. At the moment we've *rather* gone to the other extreme. More power to the herring fleet and may they bring us more fish.

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